

fig. 18-24

extended position, said tool bits project from said holding means wherein said bit assemblies are operably slideably attached to said housing;

(e) further including a guide means for maintaining said bit assemblies separate and nested proximate the inner surface of said housing, and for guiding said bit assemblies as they are urged between the extended and retracted position; and

(f) wherein said guide means includes permanent magnets mounted in said housing for magnetically attracting said tool bits and for maintaining said bit assemblies separate and nested proximate the inner surface of said housing, and for guiding said bit assemblies as they are urged between the extended and retracted position.

Remarks

35 USC 112 Objections:

The Examiner has objected to Claim 18, paragraph (d), where we have claimed including "at least one bit extension" which we have amended now to read "including one bit extension".

The Examiner will note that we have deleted originally submitted paragraphs (e) and (f) in Claim 18 and paragraph (e) in Claim 32, therefore rendering moot the objection to no antecedent basis for the "radial direction" and "the transverse or lateral direction".

In regard to Claim 32, we have amended said "retracted position" to now read "a retracted position" and in addition we have inserted "said tool" in part (d) as suggested by the Examiner.

We now submit that this overcomes the 35 USC 112 Objections raised by the Examiner.

35 USC 103 Rejection:

I refer the Examiner to the previous office action rendered by Examiner Joni Danganan in which she indicated that Claim 14 in the originally submitted claims contained allowable subject matter provided that this claim where rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims.

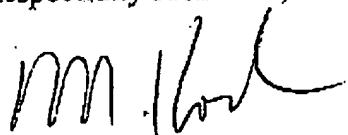
Kindly note that we have amended Claim 18 and 32 to include the limitations of former Claims 25 and 26 which correspondence to the subject matter in Claim 14 which is referred to the Examiner in the previous office action as being allowable subject matter.

Therefore, independent Claim 18 now contains allowable subject matter and as well independent Claim 32 also contains allowable subject matter and therefore any claims depending from Claim 18 and 32 would also now be allowable.

We have addressed each and every issue raised by the Examiner in this office action and therefore request continued Examination and in addition we have not raised any new issues that have not already been dealt with by the Examiner's in the office actions to date.

We therefore now submit that this application is in a condition of allowance and look forward to receiving your reply.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Koch
(44,448)
MAK:pf

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES

In The Claims

18. (Once Amended) A multi-bit driver comprising:
 - (a) a longitudinally oriented housing including a bit chuck having an hexagonal receiving channel at one end;
 - (b) a plurality of hexagonal tool bits nested within said housing in a retracted position;
 - (c) an actuating means for selectively extending said tool bits to an extended position and retracting said tool bits to said a retracted position, such that in the extended position, said tool bits project from said hexagonal receiving channel of said bit chuck and are substantially longitudinally aligned with said housing;
 - (d) wherein said actuating means further includes at least one bit assembly including at least one bit extension operably connected at one end to each of said tool bits and at the other end to a fastening means, said bit assemblies for operatively urging said tool bits between said extended and retracted position and for maintaining alignment of said tool bits with said bit chuck;
 - (e) ~~said fastening means for slidably connecting said bit extension to actuator channels defined in said housing such that said bit extension is guided slidably along said actuator channel;~~
 - (f) ~~wherein said bit extension being flexible in the radial direction and stiffer in the transverse or lateral direction for guiding said tool bit into said bit chuck by allowing said tool bit to deflect radially up or down but resistive to deflection transversely side to side such that said tool bit remains aligned longitudinally and operative for ensuring positive registration with said bit chuck as said tool bit is urged into said extended position.~~
 - (e) further including a guide means for maintaining said bit assemblies separate and nested proximate the inner surface of said housing, and for guiding said bit assemblies as they are urged between the extended and retracted position: and
 - (f) wherein said guide means includes permanent magnets mounted in said housing for magnetically attracting said tool bits and for maintaining said bit assemblies separate and nested proximate the inner surface of said housing, and for guiding said bit assemblies as they are urged between the extended and retracted position.

25. Kindly cancel claim 25

26. Kindly cancel claim 26

32. A multi-bit driver comprising;

- (a) a longitudinally aligned generally cylindrical housing;
- (b) a plurality of bit assemblies each including a tool bit, said bit assemblies incorporated in said housing;
- (c) said housing including a means for releasably holding said tool bits at one end of said housing; and
- (d) an actuating means for selectively extending said tool bits to an extended position and retracting said tool bits to said a retracted position, such that in the extended position, said tool bits project from said holding means wherein said bit assemblies are operably slideably attached to said housing;
- (e) ~~wherein each bit assembly includes a bit extension connected at one end to each tool bit and at the other end operably slideably connected to said housing said bit assembly adapted such that the tool bit can be easily deflected radially and resistive to lateral deflection to operably align said tool bits with said holding means as said tool bit urged into said extended position.~~
- (e) further including a guide means for maintaining said bit assemblies separate and nested proximate the inner surface of said housing, and for guiding said bit assemblies as they are urged between the extended and retracted position; and
- (f) wherein said guide means includes permanent magnets mounted in said housing for magnetically attracting said tool bits and for maintaining said bit assemblies separate and nested proximate the inner surface of said housing, and for guiding said bit assemblies as they are urged between the extended and retracted position.

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